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PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATIONAL RESOURCES IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN AND OTHER ARAB TERRITORIES

Report of the Economic Committee

1. The Economic Committee considered the question of permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (agenda item 13) at its 11th, 14th and 16th meetings, on 22, 24 and 28 July 1992. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the economic and social consequences of the establishment of settlements by Israel in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Syrian Golan (A/47/294-E/1992/84).

2. At the 11th meeting, on 22 July, the Committee held a general discussion on the item and heard statements by the representatives of Bahrain, Algeria, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan

3. At the 14th meeting, on 24 July, the observer for Tunisia 1/, on behalf of Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, 1/ Jordan, 1/, Lebanon, 1/ the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 1/ Mauritania, 1/ Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia 1/ and Yemen, 1/ introduced a draft resolution (E/1992/C.1/L.9) entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied

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1/ In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

since 1967, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan". Subsequently, Iraq 1/ joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

4. At the 16th meeting, on 28 July, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Selim Yenel (Turkey), informed the Committee of the result of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution and amended operative paragraph 2 thereof, by replacing the words "without any legal basis" by the words "without any legal effect".

5. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America proposed that no action be taken on the draft resolution in the Economic Committee.

6. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic requested that a recorded vote be taken on the motion proposed by the representative of the United States of America.

7. Following statements by the representatives of Algeria, the Russian Federation, Morocco, Canada, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Syrian Arab Republic and Romania, the Committee rejected the motion to take no action on the draft resolution in the Economic Committee by a recorded vote of 30 to 14, with 6 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Finland, Germany, Italy, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Yugoslavia.

Abstaining: France, Japan, Romania, Spain, Swaziland, Turkey.

8. The Committee then adopted draft resolution E/1992/C.1/L.9, as orally amended, by a recorded vote of 47 to 2, with 3 abstentions (see para. 14 below). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Guinea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jamaica, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yugoslavia.

Against: Russian Federation, United States of America.

Abstaining: Benin, Canada, Japan.

9. Before the draft resolution was adopted, statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the Syrian Arab Republic.

10. The Secretary of the Committee also made a statement.

11. After the draft resolution was adopted, statements were made by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, the United States of America, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Sweden.

12. At the same meeting, the observer for Israel made a statement.

13. Also at the same meeting, the observer for Palestine made a statement.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

14. The Economic Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 46/199 of 20 December 1991,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and other resolutions affirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, 2/ to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

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2/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.

Expressing its concern at the establishment by Israel, the occupying Power, of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including the settlements of new immigrants therein,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General; 3/

2. Deplores the establishment of settlements by Israel in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the other Arab territories occupied since 1967, and regards the settlements as unlawful and without any legal effect;

3. Recognizes the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied by Israel since 1967, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan;

4. Strongly deplores Israel's practices in the occupied Palestinian territory and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, in particular its confiscation of land, its appropriation of water resources, its depletion of other economic resources and its displacement and deportation of the population of those territories;

5. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the population of the Syrian Golan to their natural and all other economic resources, and regards any infringement thereof as being without any legal validity;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

3/ A/47/294-E/1992/84.